

Please replace page 229, namely, the "Abstract of the Disclosure", with the following:

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--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

AB A multicast concentrator to both concentrate and multicast packets, and the concomitant self-routing control mechanism for the switching of the packets in the multicast concentrator. An m-to-n multicast concentrator always guarantees that the total number of 0-bound and bicast signals routed to its 0-output group and the total number of 1-bound and bicast signals routed to its 1-output group are both the maximum possible. An m-to-n multicast concentrator can be easily adapted from an m-to-n concentrator by replacing each of the sorting cells in the concentrator by a bicast cell.--

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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please add claims 4-11 as follows:

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4. An m-to-n multicast concentrator for routing input signals, each of the input signals being 0-bound, 1-bound, bicast, or idle, the concentrator comprising

m input ports to receive the input signals,

ACy m output ports partitioned into two groups wherein m-n of the m output ports are grouped as a 0-output group and the remaining n output ports are grouped as a 1-output group, and

Cost, means, responsive to the input signals, for routing the maximum possible total number of 0-bound and bicast ones of the input signals to the 0-output group and the